

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic sampler ~~for injecting a sample into a sample introducing portion in communication to a column of a liquid chromatography~~, comprising:

~~a) a needle for sucking the~~adapted to suck a sample from a sample liquid bath and ~~injecting to inject the sample into the a sample introducing portion which is in fluid communication with a column of a liquid chromatography;~~

a first rinsing bath adapted to contain a first rinsing liquid;

a second rinsing bath adapted to contain at least one kind of second rinsing liquid; and

a controller, configured to selectively execute at least one of a first rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the first rinsing liquid in the first rinsing bath, and a second rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath and exchanges the second rinsing liquid while the needle is kept inserted into the second rinsing bath

~~b) a first rinsing section for rinsing said needle by soaking said needle in a first rinsing liquid in a first rinsing bath, in which the first rinsing liquid in said first rinsing bath is not exchanged during the rinsing operation; and~~

~~_____ c) a second rinsing section for rinsing said needle by soaking said needle in a second rinsing liquid in a second rinsing bath, in which the second rinsing liquid in said second rinsing bath is exchanged during the rinsing operation,~~
~~_____ wherein said needle is rinsed by at least one rinsing section selected from said first rinsing section and said second rinsing section.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method for rinsing a needle of an automatic sampler, said method comprising:

_____ providing a first rinsing bath containing a first rinsing liquid;
_____ providing a second rinsing bath containing a second rinsing liquid; and
_____ selectively executing at least one of a first rinsing operation in which the needle is soaked in the first rinsing liquid in the first rinsing bath, and a second rinsing operation in which the needle is soaked in the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath and the second rinsing liquid is exchanged while the needle is kept inserted into the second rinsing bath

~~_____ rinsing the needle by at least one operation selected from a) rinsing the needle by soaking the needle in a first rinsing liquid, in which the first rinsing liquid is not exchanged during the rinsing operation, and b) rinsing the needle by soaking the needle in a second rinsing liquid, in which the second rinsing liquid is exchanged during the rinsing operation.~~

4. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The method for rinsing a needle of an

automatic sampler according to claim 3, further comprising:

selecting one of plural kinds of liquid as the second rinsing liquid from among a plurality of rinsing liquids to be supplied to the second rinsing bath to exchange the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath.

5. (Currently Amended) The automatic sampler according to claim 1, further comprising:

a pump fluidly connected to the second liquid bath irrespective of a position of the needle,

_____ wherein said pump is adapted configured to be controlled by the controller to supply the second rinsing liquid to the second rinsing bath so as to exchange the second rinsing liquid in the second ~~liquid-rinsing~~ bath.

6. (New) The automatic sampler according to claim 5, further comprising:

a switcher, configured to select one of plural kinds of liquid as the second rinsing liquid supplied to the second rinsing bath.